Royal Institutions:

Being Proposals for

ARTICLES

To Establish and Confirm

Laws, Liberties, & Customs

OF

Silver & Gold *Mines*,

TO ALL

The KING's Subjects, in such Parts of *AFRICA*, and *AMERICA*, which are Now (or Shall be) Annexed to, and Dependant on the CROWN of *England*.

With Rules, Laws, and Methods of Mining, and Getting of Precious Stones; The Working and Making of Salt-Petre; And also, The Digging and Getting of Lead, Tin, Copper, and Dutch-Silver-*Ours*, in Any or Either of those Countries; Whereby *Navigation*, and *Trade*, with the Subjects Interest and Riches, together with the CROWN's Revenues, would be greatly Encreased, in a little Time.

Most Humbly Offered to the Consideration of the King's most Excellent Majesty, *& this Present* Parliament.

By Thomas Houghton, of Lime-Street.

Licensed, DANIEL POPLAR.

LONDON, Printed for the Author, 1694.

Royal Institutions:

Being Proposals for

ARTICLES

To Establish and Confirm

Laws, Liberties, & Customs

OF

Silver & Gold Mines,

TO ALL

The KING's Subjects, in such Parts of AFRICA, and AMERICA, which are Now (or Shall be) Annexed to, and Dependant on the CROWN of England.

With Rules, Laws, and Methods of Mining, and Getting of Precious Stones; The Working and Making of Salt-Peter; And also, The Digging and Getting of Lead, Tin, Copper, and Quick-Silver Ores, in Any or Either of those Countries; Whereby Navigation, and Trade, with the Subjects Interest and Riches, together with the CROWN's Revenues, would be greatly Encreased, in a little Time.

Most Humbly Offered to the Consideration of the King's most Excellent Majesty, & this Present Parliament.

By Thomas Dougbton, of Lime Street.

Licensed, DANIEL POPLAR.

LONDON, Printed for the Author, 1694.

TO THE

KING's

MOST

Excellent Majesty;

Together, with the Present

PARLIAMENT

Assembled this Thirtenth Day of *February*, 169$\frac{1}{4}$.

Great Cæsar, and Senators,

In all Humility, most Humbly I inform You

THere is nothing more Certain and True, Than that there are ma-

ny extraordinary Rich Veyns, Mines, *and* Mineral Countries, *in several Parts of* America, *which are now Annexed to, and Dependant on the* CROWN *of* England; (*the Experience and Truth of which, nothing but want of Skill in* Mineral Affairs, *and Incredulity, can or will deny*); *which* Veyns *and* Mines, *if they was Sought for, and*

Set to Work, by any that understands them, would undoubtedly, in a little Time, prove as Rich *as any the* Spaniards *have in* Peru, *or on the* North *Side of the* Æquinox, *in* New-Spain; *and, in a few Years, would produce and raise great Quantities of* Silver, Gold, Copper, *and other Valuable Things, to the great Content and Sa-*

tisfaction of the English; *provided there was any Regular* LAWS, RULES, *and* METHODS *Settled, for Working, and Carrying on the ſaid* Mines; *by which* LAWS, *the* Enterprifers, *or* Undertakers *thereof, might Enjoy and Secure their Rights, Intereſts, and Properties therein, to Them, their Heirs, and Aſſigns, after they have*

been at the Cost and Charges of Finding and Discovering the said Mines. But, as the Royalties thereof stand, at present, (in their respective and separate Grants from the CROWN) *to several* PROPRIETORS, *that formerly hath not, at present doth not, nor hereafter, in all Probability, will ever use any effectual Ways and Means to Work and Discover*

cover the same; whereby this excellent Undertaking *hath hitherto been Neglected and Slighted, and is yet rendred Impracticable to all* English-Men; *and so will remain to* Posterity; *by which many* Rich Veyns *and* Mines *have* been, are, & will be of no Benefit; *but continue Void, and utterly Lost, unless some further Care be taken, than yet*

hath

hath been, for Settling and Methodizing the same: The evil Circumstances of which, hath been, is, and will be, if not remedied, an invaluable Loss to the English *Nation, in Neglecting to give all due Encouragement to improve this Honourable* Enterprize; *which would greatly encrease the Revenues of the* Crown, *and advance the* English *Nation's Interest,*

creaſt, to an unſpeakable Degree, in a little Time. Therefore, that the King's moſt excellent Majeſty, in his Princely Wiſdom, together with this Preſent Parliament, would be Graciouſly Pleaſed to take it into Conſideration, and amend this Miſchief, by making the following ARTICLES, (or ſome ſuch other, as the Government ſhall approve off)

off) for Standing LAWS, *and* CUSTOMS, *to be Observed and Practised by all the* KING's *Subjects in* America; *whereby the* Enterprize *would become Natural to the* English *Posterity, and every Free-Born Subject have* Liberty *to Seek,* Find, *and* Enjoy *the* Fruit *of his* Labours; *Paying to the* CROWN, *the* Duties *and* Reservations *here-after mentioned,*

tioned, Is the sole Desire, and earnest Request of

Your most Humble,

Most Dutiful and most

Obedient Petitioner,

Thom. Haughton.

Royal

ROYAL Institutions.

Article I.

THAT it is the Right and Prerogative of the CROWN, to Elect and Choose an Officer, and Officers, for

the Management of the *Royal Treaſuries*, when and where Occaſion doth or ſhall require, to take the Care and Charge of the KING's Part, in all *Royal Mines*; and alſo, in all Mines of *Baſe Metal*, where the Royalties yet remain annexed to the Crown; Which Officer, and Officers, ſhall be *Sworn* to

to do Right and Juſtice, as much as in Him or Them lieth, (according to the beſt of his or their Skill and Knowledge) between his Soveraign Majeſty the KING, and the *Miner*, *Maintainer*, or *Venturer*; and alſo, between *Miner* and *Miner*, and *Miner* and *Maintainer* of ſuch Mines; and ſhall ei-

ther Himſelf, or by his or their Lawful Deputy or Deputies, duly Execute, and faithfully put in Practice, amongſt the *Miners* and *Adventurers*, and all other of the KING's Subjects, theſe ARTICLES, as Rules, Laws, and Cuſtoms, fit to be kept and obſerved, in all Parts of *Africa*, *America*,

merica, or the *Weſt-India Iſlands*, where any *Silver* or *Gold Mines*, or any other *Mines* of *Tin*, *Lead*, *Copper*, *Quick-Silver*, *Precious Stones*, and *Salt-Petre*, ſhall be Found, Dug, Made, and Diſcovered hereafter; which Officer ſhall be called the *Bar-Maſter*; and ſhall remain Overſeer and Superviſer of the *Roy-*

al Mines, and other Mines of *Baſe Metal*, for the KING's Part, during his Majeſty's Pleaſure.

Article II.

THAT all or any of the *KING*'s Subjects, of what Degree, Quality, or Eſtate

ſtate ſoever they be, ſhall have full Power, & free Liberty to Dig, Delve, Work, Mine, and Break up Ground in any of the Countries afore-ſaid, to ſeek for *Silver*, *Gold*, *Lead*, *Tin*, *Copper*, *Quick-Silver*, *Precious Stones*, and *Salt-Petre*, in any Part or Place whatſoever, Houſes, Orchards, Gardens, and En-

Encloſures of Sugar-works excepted, upon the Terms and Conditions following: That is to ſay, He or they who findeth them, or any of them, ſhall pay to the *KING*'s Officer, for the Uſe of the *KING*, in Oars ready dreſt, and cleanſed from the Earth, Stone, and Rubbiſh, made fit for Smelting, Melting,

Melting, and Refining; Of all *Gold* and *Silver Oars*, one Sixth Part; And of all *Lead*, *Tin*, *Copper*, *Quick-Silver-Oars*, and *Precious Stones*, one Twelfth Part; And of all *Salt-Petre*, every Twelfth Tunn: For Payment of which Sixth and Twelfth Parts, as afore-said, every *Miner*, *Maintainer*, or any of

of the KING's Subjects, shall have free Liberty to Dig, Work, & Break up Grounds in any of the Countries afore-said; except in such Places, as is before excepted.

Article

Art. III.

THAT all Rakes, or Veyns of *Silver* or *Gold*, *Lead*, *Tin*, *Copper*, and *Quick-Silver*, and all Pipes and Flat-Works of *Precious Stones*, or *Salt-Petre*, shall, in three Days Time next after they, or any of them are found,

found, be poſſeſt with one pair of Stowes or more, by the Owners or firſt Finders thereof; and Notice ſhall be given, or ſent to the *KING*'s Officer, by Word of Mouth or Writing, concerning the ſame, within three Months Time next after ſuch Veyn or Veyns, Rake or Rakes, Pipe or Pipes, Flat-

Flat-Work or Flat-Works are Found and Diſcovered; and, for want of ſuch Officer, to the Miniſter of the Pariſh, or the next Magiſtrate, or Juſtice of the Peace, or Governour of the Place, where ſuch Mines are Found, who ſhall immediately go or ſend his Deputy to the ſaid Mine, Rake, Veyn,

Pipe, or Flat-Work, and ſhall there Meaſure out as many Meers of Ground, as the *Owner* or *Owners* thereof have Stowes ſet in quiet Poſſeſſion; which Meers of Ground he ſhall deliver to the firſt *Finder*, or *Owners* thereof, and ſhall Regiſter that Veyn, Rake, Pipe, or Flat-Work, by ſuch

ſuch Name, as the *Owners* think fit to give it; the *Miner*, *Owner*, or *Finder* thereof Paying to the *Bar-Maſter*, or his Deputy, Ten Shillings for every Meer of Ground he or they ſhall ſo Meaſure out and Regiſter; each Meer of Ground containing Twenty Nine Yards of Ground in Length: Upon every

of which Meer of Ground, a pair of Stowes ſhall ſtand to keep Poſſeſſion, as aforeſaid, within which Length of Ground, no Perſon or Perſons ſhall preſume to Work, Dig, or Break up Ground, in Order to get Oar therein, without the Leave and Conſent of the *Owner*, or firſt *Finder* thereof, whe-

whether *Gold*, or any other Metal whatsoever.

Art. IV.

THAT it is, and shall be, Lawful for any Person to Cross, Stow, and take Possession of either of the Extreams or Ends

of all Rakes, Veyns, Pipes and Flat-Works ſo found, where the Right and Poſſeſſion of the next *Owner* expires, either at the Meaſuring out of the firſt Meers of Ground, or before; and he who ſhall firſt break Ground by the Making of a Crofs or Croſſes, and ſhall Own and Prove himſelf to be

be the firſt Taker at the Finder, or to him or them that Holdeth and Enjoyeth the next Poſſeſſion, and ſhall ſet on one pair of Stowes or more, within Three Days Time next after the Making of ſuch Croſs or Croſſes, or breaking of Ground, ſhall be Judged and Concluded to have the Right,

Right, Intereſt, and Poſſeſſion of the next Ten Meers of Ground in the ſame Rake, Veyn, Pipe, or Flat-Work, there-unto adjoyning, at whither End or Side ſoever it is, or ſhall be; provided he or they ſhall and do ſet on the other Nine pair of Stowes, within Three Days Time next after the

the Making of ſuch Croſs or Croſſes; and ſhall Pay the *Bar-Maſter*, or his Deputy, Ten Shillings for Regiſtering and Meaſuring out each Meer of Ground; at which Time, Stakes ſhall be driven down, or Marks made to determine and ſhew the End of the ſame. But if he or they, who have made

made ſuch Croſs or Croſſes, and broken Ground, Neglect or Refuſe to ſet on One Pair of Stowes or more, where ſuch Croſs or Croſſes was made, within Three Days Time next after the Making thereof; that *then* it ſhall be *free* & *lawful* for any other Perſon to Croſs, Take, and Set on Stowes,

and

and Poſſeſs thoſe Ten Meers of Ground, and ſhall Hold and Enjoy the ſame to himſelf, or his Aſſigns, giving the *Bar-Maſter*, or his Deputy, Notice thereof, and Paying for Regiſtering and Meaſuring theſe Meers of Ground, as afore-ſaid. And thus every one ſhall be ſerved, ſooner or later, in the ſame Rake,

Rake, Veyn, Pipe, or Flat-Work, whether it be *Silver*, *Gold*, *Lead*, *Tin*, *Copper*, *Quick-Silver*, *Precious Stones*, or *Salt-Petre*, according to his or their Antiquity of Croſſing, or Breaking of Ground, and Setting on of Stowes, as is aforeſaid.

Article

Art. V.

THAT after the Ground is Poſſeſt with Stowes, Meaſured, Marked out, and Regiſtered, if any Man's Stowes be Stol'n off, and taken away by any Malicious Perſon, or by any Indirect Way or

Means ſhall be Carried or Taken from the Places where they or any of them Stood, That it ſhall not be Lawful for any Perſon or Perſons to Set his or their Stowes, or Poſſeſs the ſame Ground, or to Work therein, or in any Part of it, for three Months Time next after; and at the End of the three Months,

Months, he or they who deſires to be *Owners* and *Poſſeſſors* of the ſame, ſhall go or ſend to the *Bar-Maſter*, or his Deputy, or to the Miniſter of the Pariſh, or to ſome other Perſon, as aforeſaid, and acquaint him or them therewith; where-upon the Officer or Perſon, ſo acquainted, ſhall

Write or ſend to the late *Owner* or *Owners* thereof, to whom the Right of thoſe Meers of Ground did belong, or to ſome of his or their Agents; and ſhall give them Notice, That unleſs he or they ſet on New Stowes upon thoſe Meers of Ground, and Dig or Work in ſome Part of it, within three Months

Months Time next after ſuch Notice given, That his or their Right in and to thoſe Ten Meers of Ground will be given away: But if the *Bar-Maſter*, or other *Officer*, knows not how or where to Write or Send to ſuch *Owner* or *Owners*, nor any of their Agents, to give him or them Notice thereof, Then the

Bar-Maſter, or his Deputy, ſhall go to that Ground, and ſhall take Three or Four Perſons along with him, and ſhall there make open PROCLAMATION, upon the Mine, ſome Time of the Day, between the Hours of Eight of the Clock in the Morning, and Two in the Afternoon, in the hear-

hearing of ſuch Perſons as go along with him, That unleſs the late *Owner*, or *Owners* thereof, ſhall ſet on new Stowes, and make Workman-ſhip in ſome Part of thoſe Meers of Ground, within Three Months Time next after ſuch PROCLAMATION, ſo that the Mine may be ſet forwards, and wrought

wrought for the Publick Good of the *KING*, and his Subjects: That for ſuch Neglect, thoſe Ten Meers of Ground in that Rake, Veyn, Pipe, or Flat-Work, will be given away to others, and his or their Names, that was late in Poſſeſſion, will be raced out of the Regiſter, and new *Owners* put

put into Poſſeſſion, and their Names Regiſtered: And this PROCLAMATION ſhall determine the Right and Intereſt thereof. And furthermore, Every Perſon and Perſons whatſoever, having Poſſeſt and Stowed up the Ground, as afore ſaid, whether it be Rake, Veyn, Pipe, or Flat-Work,

Work, ſhall do and perform ſome actual Work, by Digging and Mining, in ſome Part of that Ground, in Twelve Months Time next after it is ſo Stowed and Poſſeſt, as afore-ſaid; or elſe it is, and ſhall be, Lawful to and for the *Bar-Maſter*, or the KING's Officer, to throw off thoſe Stowes, ſo ſet

on,

on, and to ſet on the Stowes of any other Perſon that ſhall deſire that Ground; to the End, That the Mines may not lye Waſte and Neglected, but that the KING, and the Publick, may Receive the Benefit thereof.

Article

Art. VI.

THAT no Perſon or Perſons, Society or Societies of Men, ſhall take up or Poſſeſs above Forty Meers of Ground together, in any Rake, Veyn, or Pipe-Work, without leaving an Inter-

Interval, or Space of Ten Meers of Ground at least, for other Adventurers; for the Reason of giving all the *KING*'s Subjects Encouragement to Venture, and to set the Field or Mine more fully at Work, for the Publick Good. But in all Flat-Works of *Gold*, or any of the before mentioned

Metals, Minerals, Stones, or *Salts*, every Man ſhall have as many Meers of Ground, as he or they have ſett-on Stowes, being Twenty Nine Yards Square, upon the Superficies of the Ground, for every Pair of Stowes; and for every Man ſucceſſively, ſooner or later, according to his

his or their Taking, Stowing, and Working the ſame, as aforeſaid.

Art. VII.

THAT all *Miners*, and *Adventurers*, ſhall have the Timber of the Countrey,

(where the Grounds are not encloſed) for the uſe of their Mines, to Work and Uphold the ſame, and to Smelt and Refine their Oars with, or to do and perform any other Service or Buſineſs, their Occaſions ſhall require, in and about the Mines; And Liberty to Dreſs, Waſh, and Cleanſe their Oars

Oars from the Earth, and Rubbiſh, whether they be *Silver*, *Gold*, *Copper*, or any other *Metal*, *Stones*, or *Salt*, as before-mentioned, in the moſt fit and convenient Places they can find; and ſhall Build, and ſet up Smelting Mills, or Melting and Refining Houſes for the ſame; and ſhall have Ways,

with free Egreſs and Regreſs, to Paſs and Repaſs, to and from the Mines, with any Carriages; and the Benefit of the Water, where-ever they ſhall find it. And when the Oars ſhall be Cleanſed from the Earth, and Rubbiſh, and made fit for Melting and Refining, before any of the Oar

is

is Removed, Conveyed, and Carried away from the Ground, where it is got, to Smelt, or Refine, or any other Ways to be diſpoſed off by the *Owners*, *Diggers*, or *Getters* of the ſame; The *KING*'s Officer, or his Deputy, or ſome ſuch Perſon, as is before-mentioned, ſhall be ſent for, to Meaſure

ſure or Weigh the ſame. And when the *Bar-Maſter*, or his Deputy, hath taken the Sixth Part of all *Gold* and *Silver Oars*, and the Twelfth Part of all *Copper*, *Lead*, *Tin*, and *Quick-Silver Oars*, and the like for *Precious Stones*, and *Salt-Petre*, as afore-ſaid, for the Uſe of the *KING*; Then the *Miner*, or *Main-*

Maintainer, ſhall have Liberty to Sell and Diſpoſe of the Reſt, to his or their beſt Advantage; or to Smelt and Refine the ſame, as he or they that Owns them think fit; And after it is made into *Copper*, *Lead*, or *Tin*, ſhall and may (if he or they pleaſe) Smoke off the *Baſe Metal*, or Refine their

Oars,

Oars, before they are Melted, by *Quick-Silver*, or *Corroſive-Waters*, or any other Way, to the beſt of his or their Advantage, according as his or their Skill and Judgment ſhall direct them, either in Oars, or in Metal, as he or they think fit.

Article

Art. VIII.

THAT if it ſhall ſo happen, that Two Veyns of *Silver*, *Gold*, *Copper*, or any other Metal, ſhall run or go along One by the Side of Another, and ſhall be parted by a Rither or Rock of

of Stone Three Foot Thick, or more; That then they ſhall be Held and Accounted for Two Rakes or Veyns; and he or they that Found the Firſt Veyn, ſhall Hold and Enjoy that in his or their own Right; for each Pair of Stowes, a Meer of Ground, as is before-ſaid: And ſo likewiſe ſhall he or they

they that Found and Diſcovered the other Veyn or Rake, ſo running near, and going along by the Side of the Veyn firſt Found, according to his or their Croſſing, Taking, and Poſſeſſing of the ſame with Stowes, one Meer of Ground for each Pair of Stowes; and ſo every Man, ſooner or la-

ter, according to his or their Taking and Stowing. But if theſe Two Rakes or Veyns run One into Another, and continue ſo, or go ſo near together, that the Rither or Rock, which parts them, may be got, without Blaſting and Blowing down of the ſame Rock with Gun-Powder; Then they ſhall

ſhall be Taken, Held, and Accounted for one Veyn; and he or they that was the firſt *Finders*, or *Owners* of the Veyn firſt Found, ſhall Enjoy the ſame, ſo long as they continue thus together: But if theſe two Rakes, or Veyns, or any other Rake or Veyn, Interſect and Croſs one another Diame-

trically, as thus, + or obliquely, in this manner,

He that firſt comes to, and finds the Place, or Point of Interſection, ſhall Hold and Enjoy the ſame: That is to ſay, He ſhall Hold and Enjoy his own Veyn, as A.——A. in his own Right, and Three Foot of either Side

Side into the Veyn B———B, as far as the Black Spots .. beyond which, being Three Foot, of either Side, from the Point of Interſection, towards B———B, he ſhall not Work, upon the Pain of Forfeiting the double Value of the Oar got therein, without any Coſt or Charges to

the Wronged Perſon, if that Veyn or Rake B——————B belong to any other Perſon or Perſons; and this Point of Interſection ſhall be called the P, to diſtinguiſh it: But if the Veyn B——————B be a New Veyn, and no other Perſon in Poſſeſſion of it; Then it is, and ſhall be Lawful for the *Finder* there-

thereof to Take and Poſſeſs it, and Hold it in his own Right. And if any Perſon ſhall Work upon the Front and Forefield of another Man's Rake or Veyn, and ſhall be thought and judged to Work in the ſame Veyn that another Man, at ſome Diſtance, had firſt in Work, and was Poſſeſt of;

of; Then the Perſon that thinks himſelf Wronged, ſhall apply himſelf to the *Bar-Maſter*, or his Deputy, and deſire him to keep an Account of all the Oar got therein; and before the *Getters*, or *Owners* thereof, ſhall carry it, or any of it away, or ſhall Smelt, Melt, or Refine any of the ſame into *Sil-*

ver,

ver, *Gold*, or any other Metal, he or they ſhall give Bond to the *Owners* of the firſt Veyn, That, if by Workmanſhip, in Length of Time, theſe Two Places proves to be one and the ſame Veyn, to return the full value of the Oar got therein, to the *Owners* or *Finders* of the firſt Veyn, without Stop-

ing

ing or Deducting any Coſt or Charges for Getting the ſame; and if he or they refuſe to give Bond, then the Oar ſhall be Stopt, and Seized for the Uſe of the firſt *Owners*, by the *Bar-Maſter*, or his Deputy, till further Workmanſhip ſhall make the Truth appear, whether they be one and the

the ſame Veyn or no; and to whether of them, the Place in Queſtion and Diſpute, doth appertain and belong.

Art. IX.

THAT whereas it is moſt Natural and Cuſtomary, for *Gold*

Gold to lye in the Earth in Flat-Work; therefore, when any *Gold*, *Silver*, *Copper*, or the Oars of any other Metal, ſhall be found to lye in Flat-Work, he or they who firſt Findeth the ſame, and Croſſeth, Breaketh Ground, and Sets on Stowes within Three Days Time next after ſuch Flat-Work

is

is Found, ſhall have as many Meers of Ground in that Flat-Work, as he or they ſhall Set on Stowes in Three Days Time next Enſuing the Finding, Croſſing, and Taking thereof, each Meer of Ground containing Twenty Nine Yards of Ground Square, upon the Superficies; within

which Length and Compaſs of Ground, no other Perſon or Perſons ſhall preſume to Dig, Work, or Carry the ſame away, without the Leave and Conſent of the firſt *Finder*, or *Owners* thereof. But if any other Perſon or Perſons, ſhall find any other Veyn or Veyns, Rake or Rakes, that

ſhall

ſhall ſink Perpendicular or Hadeing, within the Limits or Compaſs of that Ground ſo Taken, Poſſeſt, and Stowed up for Flat-Work, as afore-ſaid; That then it is, and ſhall be Lawful to and for the firſt *Finders*, or *Owners* of thoſe Rakes, and Veyns, to Hold, Work, and Enjoy the ſame, & all the *Product*

thereof, that ſhall be got within the Compaſs and Bounds of thoſe Rakes or Veyns, without any Diſturbance or Hindrance from or by the *Owners* or *Maſters* of the Flat-Works; becauſe ſuch Rakes and Veyns lye in the Earth after another Manner, and Nature, quite different to Flat-Works, and

and are Separate Things; And ſo (ſucceſſively) every one in the ſame Rakes or Veyns, according to his or their Taking, and Poſſeſſing with Stowes, ſooner or later, ſhall be ſerved, Hold and Enjoy the Meers of Ground ſo Taken, and Poſſeſt, in thoſe Rakes and Veyns. And if there

be no Veyns or Rakes Found within that Compaſs of Ground, ſo Taken and Poſſeſt for Flat-Work, but the Flat-Work ſhall continue, and extend it ſelf, bearing *Gold*, or the Oars of any other Metal, further, and beyond the Limits of the Ground ſo Poſſeſt with Stowes, as afore-ſaid, for Flat-Works,

Works; That then the firſt and next *Taker*, *Poſſeſſor*, and *Stower* of the next adjoyning Ground, ſhall Hold and Enjoy as many Meers of Ground, each Meer containing Twenty Nine Yards of Square Ground upon the Superficies, as he or they have Taken, and Set on Stowes for the ſame

ſame Flat-Work, within the Time aforeſaid; and ſo, ſucceſſively, every other Perſon or Perſons ſhall be ſerved, ſooner or later, according to his or their Taking, Poſſeſſing, and Stowing up of the ſame Flat-Work; be it in *Gold Mines*, or in Seams and Beds of *Salt-Petre*, or *Precious Stones*

Stones lying in the Earth, Soyl, or Rocks, in Flat-Works, as afore-ſaid; or any other Metal and Oars, lying in the ſame manner whatſoever.

Article

Art. X.

THAT where any Oars ſhall be got, made, and run into *Copper*, *Lead*, *Tin*, or *Quick-Silver*, all and every Part of thoſe Metals, that ſhall be uſed and ſpent in the Countrey, where they are

are got, ſhall Pay no other Duty to the *KING*, but only that before-mentioned; for the Reaſon of giving the Inhabitants, and Adventurers, all the Encouragement, that may be, to Work the Mines, and to Carry on the Field. But if the *Finders*, *Getters*, or *Owners* thereof, or any other Perſon, ſhall have

have a mind, and finds it for his or their Benefit and Advantage, to Transport and Ship them, or any of them, from the Countries where they are got, to other Places beyond the Seas, he or they that Ships them, shall Pay for every Tunn of *Copper* so Shipt, Twenty Shillings to the *KING*'s Offi-

Officer, for the Uſe of the *KING*; and the ſame Sum of Twenty Shillings the Tunn, for *Salt-Petre*, and *Tin*; and Five Pounds for every Tunn of *Quick-Silver* ſo Shipt off, and Tranſported from the Countries where they are got: For the Payment of which Duties, and the Twelfth Part or Caract of all

Precious Stones, as afore-ſaid, All *Diggers*, *Finders*, *Owners*, *Buyers*, *Adventurers*, or *Dealers* therein, or in any of them, ſhall have free Liberty to Sell, Ship, and Tranſport them to any Part or Place whatſoever, to the beſt of his or their Advantage.

The End of the Articles.

All

ALL which Methods, Rules, and Articles, that they, and every of them, may be Enacted, Eſtabliſhed, and Confirmed by the King's

moſt Excellent Majeſty, and this preſent Parliament, now Aſſembled, as LAWS and CUSTOMS, hereafter to be Practiſed, Uſed, and Obſerved by all the Subjects of the

Crown

Postscript.

TO THE

LORDS

Spiritual and Temporal,

Together with the

COMMONS,

Assembled in this present

PARLIAMENT.

Gentlemen,

IT is Worth your Thoughts & Considerations, to Enquire

quire into the Reaſons and Cauſes, Why no *Engliſh King*, *Prince*, *Noble-Man*, *Merchant*, nor any other *Perſon* of Heroick Spirit, ſhould not, in all this Time, ſince *America* hath been Diſcovered, endeavour to be Maſter of *Silver* and *Gold Mines*, as well as the *Spaniards*; there being in many Places of *America*,

Crown of England, in all Parts of Africa, and America, for the Diſcovering, Working, and Carrying on any of the Mines before-mentioned, when and where they, or any of them, ſhall

be Found, is the moſt Humble Petition and Requeſt of a well-Wisher to the Nation's Intereſt,

T. H.

Poſt-

America, now in the Hands of the *Engliſh*, as Rich, and as Plentiful *Veyns* and *Mines to be Found*, as any the *Spaniards* have in *Peru*, or *New-Spain*. But one Reaſon of this Misfortune, I believe to be this; He that hath had Subſtance, to have undertaken this Enterpriſe, hath wanted Skill, and durſt

durſt not Truſt another *with a ſmall Stock out of Sight*; nor would not go himſelf with ſuch as had Judgment therein: Or, He that hath had Skill, hath wanted Money, and Encouragement, to Manage and Carry on this Affair, and ſo could not undertake it, for want of a Stock; and as yet, no Perſon hath

hath Petitioned any KING or PRINCE, about it: However, it is plain, and too true, the Mines have been Neglected, which one would think, ſince all the *Kings*, *Princes*, *Grandees*, and *Perſons of Eſtates*, in *Europe*, have known, That for 150 Years laſt paſt, the *Spaniards* have imported at *Cales*, from Ten

to

to Forty Millions a Year, in *Silver* and *Gold*, beſides many *Precious Stones*, and other *Rich Commodities*, of great Value. The Knowledge of which, one would imagine, ſhould have ſtrongly induced ſome other *Prince*, or *Heroick Spirited Men*, to have uſed all their Endeavours to have Found and Diſcover-

ed

ed ſuch Mines; and have given them ſufficient Cauſe to have purſued the ſame, by ſending ſuch Perſons about this Affair, as well Underſtandeth ſuch Things: But the chief Reaſon and Miſchief, that theſe Mines have layn ſo long Neglected, is, Becauſe a few PROPRIETORS (as is before recited in

the PREFACE,) having, together with the Land, got Grants from the Crown, of the Royalties, where Mines, and Mineral Countries are; and not using any effectual Means to Discover the Mines themselves, at their Charge, the Enterprise hath remained intricate, and no ways feasable to

Others,

Others, by Reaſon of thoſe Grants; all other Perſons being prohibited to engage therein. For, to what purpoſe ſhall a Man ſpend his Time, Labour, and Money, to Enrich Others, by Seeking for That, which, when he hath found, neither He, nor his Heirs, ſhall Enjoy, nor any part thereof:

To Engage in this, would be perfect Madness. This is the chief Reason, why the *English* are not Masters of *Silver* and *Gold Mines*, as well as the *Spaniards*; and not the want of such Mines, being within the *English* Territories and Dominions; for if this *Sore* was once *Cured*, The *English* would have a *Plate*-Fleet, in

a

a few Years, Arrive in *England*, as well as the *Flota* doth in *Spain*. How great the Loſs of which hath been, and is, and how Acceptable and Profitable the Diſcovering of ſuch Mines, and an Arrival of a *Platt*-Fleet Yearly in *England*, would be, I leave every one to Judge, that knows the Uſe and Service

of *Silver* and *Gold*: And the Cauſe and Cauſes, why there are no ſuch Mines Wrought in *America*, but what are Wrought by the *Spaniards*, are only the Reaſons afore-ſaid; concerning which, I hope, I have ſaid ſufficient; and that ſome better Care will be taken, for the Future, whereby all thoſe Grants,

Grants, relating to the Mines in *America*, may be Null'd, Revok'd, and made Void, (only in ſuch Clauſes as concern Mines,) by the *King's moſt Excellent Majeſty*, and the Prudence of this Preſent *Parliament*; and that the *KING* hereafter may remain ſole Lord of the Field, and Royalties, in all Parts of

of *Africa*, and *America*, that are now, or ſhall be, Annexed to the CROWN of *England*, *&c.* The *Indians*, both on the *South* and *North* Side the *Æquinoctial*, had Found the Mines, and Wrought in them (after their Faſhion) for above Three Hundred Years before the *Spaniards* came there; or elſe moſt of the Mines

Mines had layn Undiſcovered to this Day, by Reaſon of the *Spaniards* Lazineſs; for the *Indians* of *Peru*, having Lived ſome Hundreds of Years in a civiliz'd Government, before the *Spaniards* Arrival, had Wrought the Mines, and got great Quantities of *Silver* and *Gold*, although they were in no

no proper way of Working them, nor had any Iron or Steeled Tools, fit for the Service of the Mines; but only Tools of Copper, which they Valued more than *Silver* or *Gold*, in regard the Tools and Utenſils of Copper were moſt ſerviceable for their Domeſtick Affairs, and all other Oc-

Occaſions, in their Times: So that, for many Years, wherever the *Spaniards* came, unleſs they Found Veſſels of *Silver* and *Gold* in the *Indians* Houſes, or ſomewhere Wore about them, at their Ears, Lips, Necks, or Noſes; or was conducted, by the *Indians*, to the Mines, and Pla-

ces,

ces, where the *Silver* and *Gold* had been got, The beſt and Richeſt Mines, the *Spaniards* now have, lay Void, and for a long Time Unwrought; being no more taken Notice of, than ſome Mineral Countries now are by the *Engliſh*, in ſeveral Parts of *America*. And the beſt Method (for Gathering and Ta-

Taking up *Gold*,) moſt of the *Spaniards* had, for many Years, was only to Cleanſe and Scower up the ſmall Rivers and Brooks of the Countrey, falling from the Mountains; from the Sands whereof, they Gathered much *Gold*, without the *Experience* of Digging, Mining, and Sinking of Shafts, to ſeek

for Veyns and Rakes: The Knowledge of which hath not been many Years Underſtood, and Practiſed by them; nor is yet Underſtood, Uſed, and Practiſed to that Heighth, and to ſuch Advantage, as it might be. So that, in many Places, which are now in the Poſſeſſion of the *Engliſh*, there

was

was never any Shafts Sunk, and put down, either by the *Engliſh*, or the *Spaniards*; their chief Objects, and Places of Tryal, being only the Surface of the Earth, with the Brooks and Rivers, as afore-ſaid. And therefore it remains, without Contradiction, there is all the probable Signs and Sym-

ptomes of Rich Veyns to be had, and Found, for Digging and Seeking for. And to this Day, the beſt Method and Way that is Known, Practiſed, and Uſed by the *Spaniards*, and *Indians*, for Gathering and Taking up *Gold*, in Flat-Work, is as followeth: The *Spaniards* ſet their *Indians* and *Negro* Slaves

out

out a *Parcel* of Ground, Forty or Fifty Yards Square, more or leſs, as the *Patroon* or *Maſter* thinks fit; which Ground, the *Indians* and Slaves Dig up as Deep as they Find any *Gold* in it; and as they Dig it, throw it into Wheel-Barrows; which being done, their other Slaves run it away to the next

River, or Running-Brook, and there lays it down, and Returns for more; and in this Manner they Labour, till their Days Work is done, in Digging and carrying of Earth. At the River, or Running Brook, there are alſo ſeveral other *Indian* Women, Boys, Girls, or Slaves, at Work, having Bowls,

or

or ſmall Treays with Handles; where a *Negro* Boy or Girl, having firſt broken and beaten the Lumps of Earth ſmall, where, by Reaſon of the Heat, it immediately dryes; which when it is dry, they put about an *Engliſh* Peck of that ſmall Earth, ſo beaten and dryed, into one of thoſe Treays, as afore-

afore-ſaid, at a Time; and then the Woman ſhakes and dances it about in the Water, turning the Bowl or Treay about and about, till the Water hath Waſht away all the Earth, and Rubbiſh; and what *Gold* is in it, ſinks, and remains at the Bottom; which not being fully Cleanſed from the Earth,

Earth, is put into a Bowl that ſtands by, to undergo a ſecond and a third Cleanſing. And in this Manner, the Women, Boys, and Girls, renew filling of their Treays and Bowls, with that Earth, till their Days Work is done; and ſo daily gather more or leſs *Gold*, according as it happens, and as that Flat-

Flat-Work is more or leſs Plentiful of *Gold*; Purſuing this Method in Digging, Carrying, and Waſhing, as long as that Earth hath any *Gold* in it worth their Labour; and then they remove to another Place. After this Way, they Work out all their Earth and Land, that lies near Rivers, or Running-Brooks,

Brooks, that hath *Gold* in it; but where the *Gold* lies at a great Diſtance from any Running Water, they are obliged to let all alone, or elſe to loſe the greateſt Part of the *Gold* that is ſmall; for in ſuch Places that are remote from the Water, (as on the Tops and Plains of the *Mountains*, where there is

is generally the moſt plentiful Store of *Gold*) the beſt Ways they Uſe or Underſtand to gather it there, are theſe: They Dig the Earth, Dry it, then Beat it ſmall, and Sift it; which done, they Spread or Strow it thin upon the Ground, and there it lies, till the next Showers of Rain Waſh it; and then they

they pick out what *Gold* they can; which being done, they draw the Earth up and down with Coal-Rakes, or turn it with Shovels, and ſpread it thin again, and let it lye till other Rains waſh it, and ſo pick it over again; which Operation, being twice or thrice Repeated, and having taken

what *Gold* they can out this Way, they then ſhovel all the Earth together upon Heaps; and if there be no Pools or ſtanding Waters near, they make Ponds or Pools; which when the Rain-Water hath filled, they carry that Earth, ſo laid upon Heaps, thither, and waſh it, with their Treays and Bowls, in thoſe

thoſe Pools, as aforeſaid: And by this Means they get ſome more *Gold*, although moſt of the fine and ſmall *Gold* is quite loſt, becauſe the Water of thoſe ſtanding Pools ſoon grows dirty and muddy, and thereby rendred unfit to ſeperate the fine duſt *Gold* from the Earth, for want of clear running-

Waters; which Error, and Defect, might eaſily be amended, and all the *Gold*, though never ſo ſmall, preſerved, if they underſtood the way of *Huſhing*, and uſing long Buddles, and Landers: As much *Gold* might be taken up in a Month, by the ſame Number of Hands, as they now take up in Seven

Seven Years: But, whether this be a proper Place, and a fit Time, to Shew and Deſcribe the Way of *Huſbing*, and Uſing theſe Buddles and Landers, I know not, till I find what Reception and Countenance theſe ARTICLES will meet with. And if the Deſign of this Book meets with En-

couragement, I will Publiſh a Book, Entituled, *The Royal Miner*; (in which, the whole Method and Progreſs of Digging, Working, and Carrying on of Mines, from the firſt Beginning, or Breaking of Ground, to the Melting, Refining, and Making the Oars into Metal, ſhall be clearly Taught and De-

Deſcribed; together, with all the Work-Tools, Inſtruments, and Materials, Uſed in and about the Mines: As alſo, what Incidents, or Accidents, Prejudicial, or Profitable, hath, doth, and may attend the ſame, as far as Art, or Nature, hath Diſcovered theſe things to Humane Reaſon: In all which,

which, (I may ſay, without Boaſting,) I have had long Experience, and am as capable to Acquaint Poſterity with, as any Perſon extant, having, for Six and Twenty Years paſt, been univerſally concerned in Mines, in all, or moſt of the Mineral Countries of *England*, not only as a *Partner*, *Maſter*,

ſter, or *Owner* of them; but in the Practick Part of their Workman-ſhip, from the Beginning, to the End:) In which Book, I will deſcribe the Method of theſe Buddles and Landers, for *Huſbing*, and the moſt proper Way of taking up, and gathering of *Gold*, with many Uſeful and Beneficial Directions

rections and Inſtructions, in and about the Mines, and Mineral Countries of *England*, and other Places, ſhall be fully ſet out and deſcribed. In the Interim, If this ſmall Book ſhould fall into the Hands of any Detractors, who, through Ignorance, or Envy, ſhall exclaim againſt any thing herein

herein mentioned, or hereby intended; I ſhall only give ſuch Perſons this modeſt Reproof, *Quis niſi mentis inops oblatum reſpuat aurum?* and he may well be reckoned a weak Man, if not a Fool, that will cenſure, ſlight, or condemn any thing, in which he never acquired ſufficient Knowledge

ledge to be a competent and fit Judge.

Gentlemen,

I would not have You, or any of You, think, or believe, that *Gold*, and *Silver*, or the Oars of any other Metals, lyes in the Earth, in ſuch Plenty, or in ſuch a Manner, as to diſcover themſelves to every vulgar

or

or unskillful Eye: however, it is certain, There is great Plenty, and many Rich Veyns to be Found in the *English* Territories; & for what I have mentioned before, concerning a *Plate-Fleet* coming Yearly into *England*, if Liberty and fit Encouragement, be given, I will Undertake to Effect and Perform

form it. And, if any of You desires further Information in this Affair, I am ready to Acquaint You with it, when You Command me; and to Shew You *how*, *where*, and by *what Ways* and Means the same may be Effected; so that, if Liberty and Encouragement may be given, I doubt not, but

to have Five Hundred *Miners* at Work, in Two Years Time; by which, with ſome *Negroes*, and other Perſons, that I will Cauſe to be brought to them, in Two Years Time more, I queſtion not, but to make the Mines flouriſh to a greater Degree, than I ſhall now Speak of.

To Conclude; All that I ſeek herein, is, That the *King's moſt Excellent Majeſty*, and this *Auguſt Aſſembly* of *Parliament*, would be Graciouſly Pleaſed, (if in their great Wiſdom, it may be thought fit,) to take away, and remove all thoſe Obſtructions, which hitherto have Ruined this Honourable

rable Enterprize; and that, for the Future, they would Settle and Confirm either the afore-going ARTICLES, or some other Fundamental LAWS and CUSTOMS, for the Mines beforementioned; whereby all Free-Born Subjects of the CROWN of *England*, may have Liberty, and full Power,

er, of Using their Endeavours, to improve their own Interests, together with the Revenues of the CROWN: Which is the most Humble Desire, and Petition, of a *Well-Wisher* to his KING, and Countrey,

Thom. Houghton.

FINIS.